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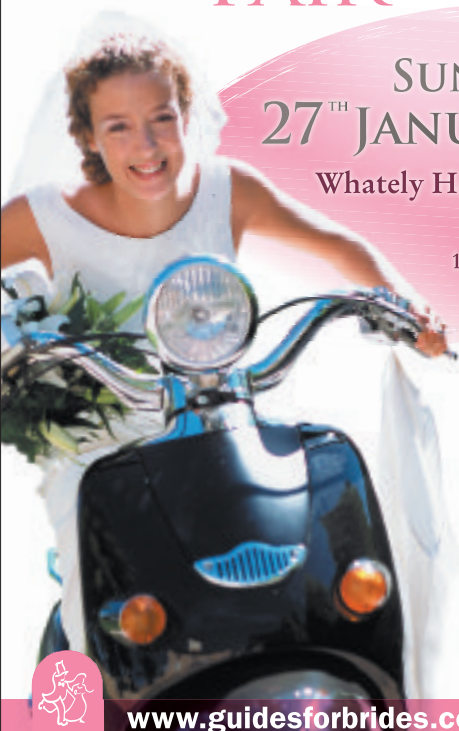
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SURGERY IS SUSPENDED

EMERGENCY abdominal surgery has been suspended at Banbury's Horton General Hospital because of a lack of consultants with the necessary expertise.

The surgery stopped at the Horton on Friday and was transferred to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

The decision affected patients requiring emergency operations for appendicitis, emergency hernias and acute bowel and gallbladder problems.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the county's biggest hospitals, made the announcement as it revealed plans for a major consultation on services at the Horton.

The trust said it had plans to expand outpatients and routine day surgery in Banbury to "bring a wider range of services closer to home for patients living in the north of the county".

And it said its vision for the Horton General "encompassed a secure future for paediatrics, obstetrics and the emergency

By Reg Little

department".

But the trust said it was faced with little option but to transfer emergency abdominal surgery to the JR.

Paul Brennan, director of clinical services at OUHT, said: "Because of some unexpected changes in medical staffing personnel, there are no longer enough consultants with the required expertise in major abdominal surgery within the surgical team at the Horton to ensure that patients requiring emergency assessment and surgery can be cared for safely."

"The trust, therefore, took a decision to suspend emergency abdominal surgery at the Horton General Hospital and transfer the small number of patients requiring such surgery to the John Radcliffe."

On average, five patients a week have emergency abdominal surgery at the Horton.

The trust could not say how many consultants it had at the Horton, nor how many were needed.

And the arrangement could

be made permanent in the face of national recommendations that emergency surgical patients should have the same access to suitable surgeons as non-emergency patients.

Despite the emergency surgery being suspended, the consultation on services at the Horton will be launched in March.

The trust will publish a document setting out its proposals in mid February.

Mr Brennan said: "Our proposals should increase the number of services available to people at the Horton. In particular, we will expand the number of outpatient clinics and day-case and short-stay elective surgery available at the Horton."



ABOVE: Director of clinical services Paul Brennan. LEFT: The Horton Hospital



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InBRIEF**Police car crash latest**

■ The Independent Police Complaints Commission will not be launching an investigation into a crash involving a police car in Deddington. On Monday, January 14, a red Nissan car was involved in an accident with the police car – which was responding to an emergency – at a crossroads on the A4260 at around 2pm. An investigation into the incident is being conducted by Thames Valley Police's roads policing unit since the IPCC only becomes involved in cases involving serious injuries or fatalities. Both police officers were unhurt and the man in the Nissan suffered only minor injuries.

Man robbed

■ A PIZZA delivery driver has been robbed at knifepoint. The 53-year-old Domino's employee was taking three pizzas to an address in Vineyard Close, Banbury, when a man stopped him, brandishing a knife. The victim handed over £35 from his money pouch. The robber was described as a white man, in his early 20s, slim, and short. He was possibly wearing a dark jumper and a woollen cap. Despite being shocked by the incident, at 9.25pm last Thursday, the victim was not hurt.

Tyre attacks

■ A SPATE of tyre slashings have occurred in Dover Avenue, Bretch Hill. The attacks happened some time between 9pm on Friday and 11am on Saturday. It is the fifth incident in the street in the last two months. Police have warned neighbours to be vigilant and report any sightings. Call 101.

■ Snow brings fun for pupils, but for others it's jams and accidents

Schools frozen out



ABOVE: Some DIY snow clearance

ALMOST nine out of every ten schools in the county were closed on Friday as a blizzard of snow blanketed the county.

Of the county's 275 schools, 238 were closed and droves of parents were forced to leave work early to pick up their children.

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for education Melinda Tilley said: "The schools have to take in to consideration whether the teachers can get in,

whether buses can pick up the children and take them home again.

"But it is up to them whether they close."

On Monday, a total of 38 schools were closed or part-closed and there were four which opened later than usual.

But many elated youngsters took the chance to test out their sledges in fields and along the streets.

Chipping Norton proved a popular destination, where snow was compacted by residents in The Leys to create the perfect sledging slope.

The nearby recreation ground also provided a venue for snowboarders, including Terence Goad, 40, of Oxford.

Mr Goad said: "It's just a 20 to 30-metre run, so it's not the Alps, but it's something to get you out and about and it's a good excuse to do something before you go to the pub. I live in Oxford but I used to live in Chippy so I know it's quite good for snowboarding. I wasn't the only one doing it, there were a few others, including a few kids."

Locals reported that gritters who arrived to deal with The Leys were turned away by residents, who wanted their slope to remain in tact.

And although there was initial traffic chaos as the first layers of snow blanketed roads, Oxfordshire County Council gritters were out continuously laying salt, first to clear the main routes and then to prevent ice forming later.

Over the weekend, the number of calls to emergency services shot up, with hundreds of extra calls to the ambulance service on Saturday alone. South Central Ambulance

Service spokesman James Keating-Wilkes said the service had received around 500 extra calls between 12.01am on Friday and 6.45pm on Saturday.

The service's two control centres handled 2,652 999 calls, 486 of which were about falls and 94 about road incidents.

Trains suffered some minor delays due to the weather, while several bus routes were altered due to snow on side roads.

The weather forced Oxfordshire County Council to close every library in the county.



RIGHT and BELOW: Sledge fun in Chipping Norton



Snowboards abounded at Chipping Norton

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Villages first to get super-fast link

VILLAGES near Banbury have become the first in the UK to be fully equipped with a super-fast fibre optic broadband network.

Deddington, Barford St Michael, Aynho Wharf, Hempton and Clifton can now get fibre-optic broadband for every home following work by BT.

This allows Internet providers to offer

speeds of up to 330mbps compared to a county average of 12mbps, though subscription costs will be higher.

If take-up is high, the firm said the pilot scheme could be rolled out to other areas.

The first homes got the new service on Monday and all will be able to sign up by the end of the month, BT said.

■ 'No confidence' over Government response

Council chief tells of district planning fears

A PLANNING boss has said a Government response to "opportunistic" housing plans around Banbury "does not give me confidence".

Cherwell District Council's Michael Gibbard spoke after Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry raised in the Commons the issue of a housing crisis facing the area.

New estates backed by the council have not been built and plans for further estates have yet to be agreed by the authority in its new Local Plan – its planning blueprint.

This has led to plans being put forward for villages like Bloxham and Hook Norton, which are not included in the Local Plan, with developers claiming they will provide much-needed homes.

Sir Tony told MPs that although the council could refuse these schemes, their decision may be overturned on appeal.

He warned: "If that continues to happen, it will undermine any concept of a Local Plan."

Planning inspectors – who rule on planning appeals – must get

By Oliver Evans

"clear guidance" on draft Local Plans or risk "opportunistic planning applications", he said.

Planning minister Nick Boles said: "The draft plan that Cherwell District Council has produced emphatically does have some weight in decisions."

Estates which have not been built should be "considered deliverable" unless they are "clearly and demonstrably unviable", he said.

Yet he emphasised the lack of homes was "one of the greatest crises of social justice facing our country".

After the debate, Sir Tony said: "I hope that the Minister's unequivocal language will stop developers and lawyers making opportunistic planning applications."

But the council's Mr Gibbard, lead member for planning, said of Mr Boles' statement: "It does not give me confidence that the emerging Local Plan will be a great factor in inspectors'

decisions." In March, Banner Homes won an appeal for 82 homes off Oxford Road, Bodicote, with the inspector saying the lack of house-building was "a clear justification" for the scheme.

And the council is facing two appeals over a total 150 homes in Bloxham, 70 in Hook Norton and 145 south of Salt Way, south Banbury, none of which are included in the Local Plan.

Mr Gibbard said: "He hasn't really said anything. We will only know when we have the result of those appeals."

Now Miller Homes has announced a plan for 60 homes in Tadmorton Road, Bloxham.

An exhibition will be held in Jubilee Park Hall on Friday, February 1, from 3pm to 9pm and the next day, from 10am to 3pm.

Spokesman Andy Evans said: "We believe that our site is a far more suitable and sustainable option which would help meet the current housing land shortfall."

● Building for the future: Page 5

Snow? The show must go on



MEMBERS of an amateur dramatics group got out their shovels to ensure the show must go on at their annual pantomime.

The cast and crew from Deddington Players shovelled snow from the car park of the village's Windmill Centre so they could put on *Sinbad the Sailor*.

Residents also got out their four-wheel drive vehicles to get cast and crew to the show while the Deddington Arms offered emergency accommodation.

Secretary Lucy Squires said the show was extra special as it was in memory of member Jean Flux, who died on January 5, aged 76.

She said: "Jean co-wrote the first 12 pantomimes and was our pantomime director for many years."

"This year also marked the 21st pantomime in Deddington, which was something we wanted to celebrate."

The show was held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Among those enjoying the snow, pictured above, were Elen Squires, 13; Phoebe Kent, 11; Penny Higham, nine, and Megan Squires, ten.



Panto tribute to Jean Flux, pictured left

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InBRIEF**Homes plan is rejected**

■ PLANS for 35 homes in a field off Hampton Drive, King's Sutton, have been rejected by South Northamptonshire Council. The Barwood Homes plan was thrown out by the development control committee last Thursday. Some 24 people objected. A council said the scheme was contrary to council and Government policies and the design was "too suburban", did not provide affordable housing and there were no clear ownership agreements in place for it to be built.

Mural debate

■ CHILTERN Railways has said it is reviewing plans to cover a mural at Banbury Station. Banbury Civic Society and the Cherwell Rail Users Group met the operator over plans to cover the 2001 mural – which depicts the town – with a Costa coffee shop. Head of stations Chad Collins said: "We're currently reviewing the options available to us in relation to the mural." Civic society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "It is a significant piece of public art. I think Chiltern is sympathetic."

Charity to look at ways victim 'will not suffer loss'

Trickster carer is to repay just £1

A MENTAL health carer, who was jailed for stealing more than £31,000 from a vulnerable woman, has been ordered to pay just £1.

Denise Kiff, who worked for the Mencap charity, stole money from Maureen Baker, who she was supposed to be looking after, over the course of four years.

Following the court case, Mencap condemned Kiff's "cynical exploitation" and said it was looking at ways to ensure Miss Baker did not suffer financial loss.

A spokesman for the organisation, Elly Button, said: "Mencap wholly condemns Kiff's cynical exploitation of Miss Baker, a person with a learning disability who was in her care."

"We are pleased that Kiff has been brought to justice following our contacting

By Tom Jennings

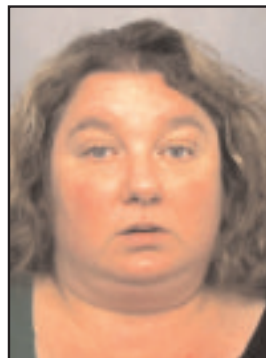
police about her behaviour.

"While we are not able to comment on Kiff's financial situation, or the judge's decision, Mencap is exploring how best to ensure that Miss Baker does not suffer financial loss."

Kiff, 41, admitted 19 counts of fraud and was jailed at Oxford Crown Court in December last year for 16 months.

The carer, of St Leonards Close, Banbury, was told to pay a nominal confiscation order of £1 at the court last Thursday due to her bankruptcy.

The order, imposed by Judge Mary Jane Mowat, is meant to prevent defendants from benefiting from the proceeds of their crime and is determined on their available



Denise Kiff

assets. Kiff scammed £31,217.71 from Miss Baker, aged in her 60s but who had the mental age of a five-year-old and lived in sheltered accommodation.

The carer used the woman's debit card to withdraw hundreds of pounds cash, which she used to buy

Chinese takeaways and clothes.

She also took a £5,000 bank loan from Santander Bank in Miss Baker's name.

The court was told in December that Kiff had worked as Miss Baker's sole support worker for many years and had been employed by Mencap since 1998, when the charity took over the company she worked for.

Wendy Hewitt, prosecuting, told the court that Kiff had been using Miss Baker's debit cards from as far back as April 2007 until March 2011, when she ceased working with her.

Jane Brady, defending, said Kiff regretted her actions and had taken the money because she had financial difficulty and wanted to help her recently widowed father.

Judge Ian Pringle told Kiff she had breached Miss Baker's trust.

Man held after sex attack in town park

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of sexual assault after a woman was attacked in People's Park, Banbury, at the weekend.

The 23-year-old was arrested after the incident in the early hours of Saturday.

The 46-year-old woman had been out in the town and was approached at a taxi rank by a man who tried to start a conversation, police said.

She began to walk home through People's Park and the same man followed her and asked to put his arm around her, officers said.

When she said no she was pushed to the ground and the man tried to undo her belt, it is alleged.

He was described as white, in his early 20s, about 5ft 6in and wearing jeans with a woolly hat or baseball cap.

Det Con Joe Stevenson said: "Fortunately the man ran away when the woman screamed."

He said: "We are continuing to appeal for information and I would encourage anyone who was in the area at the time, or who has information, to contact the police."

If you can help, please call Det Con Stevenson on 101 or call Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

The arrested man will answer bail on January 30.

Owners identify stolen tack

A £50,000 haul of stolen horse tack went on display as police attempted to reunite it with its owners.

About 50 people attended Banbury Police Station and 20 of those managed to identify 50 items of tack as their own.

The stolen property was recovered following a raid in northern Oxfordshire last month. Police recovered the haul, including saddles and bridles, from a property in the Grimsbury area.

Police are still hopeful more rightful owners will come forward.

The items were tracked down by police after being put up for sale on the Internet auction site eBay.

Detective Sergeant Steve Birchall said: "It was a big success. We managed to identify 50 items. I want to thank everyone for coming out to identify the items. It has helped the ongoing investigation."

"It was a big thing for us to crack and so we are pleased with the result."

Two men, aged 53 and 52, and a 53-year-old woman have been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Anyone who has had equipment stolen should call police on 101.



PC Sharon Harris looks at saddles with Issey Whitford

Sir Tony hits back over reforms

CONSERVATIVE Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry has defended Government welfare reforms after a council report warned they forced more into poverty.

Cherwell District Council this month said a ten per cent cut in Government cash support for council tax benefit could hit those impacted by the reforms.

It said the changes could "push more people into poverty and homelessness" and they could "then turn to the council for help".

Sir Tony said a move to cut housing benefit for social housing tenants would help working-age people "face similar choices to their counterparts in the private rented sector".

The changes would cut the benefit up to 25 per cent if a tenant had "spare" bedrooms.

Sir Tony said: "There are 250,000 social housing tenants living in overcrowded accommodation and over five million people on waiting lists, so it is difficult to justify why people in accommodation that is too big for

their needs should be subsidised."

A cap on a range of benefits to £26,000 a year would exclude payments such as council tax benefit and pension credit, he said.

Responding to Labour claims the cuts would price people out of rented properties, he said that £30m of Government support would help "ease the transition" for councils.

Regarding the opposition's call for a cap on private rents, he said the Government will undertake an inquiry to look at rent control.



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■ Issues are raised as building industry's 20,000-home target is revealed

Building for the future

CONSTRUCTION workers are building nearly 20,000 homes across Oxfordshire to help house the county's growing population.

And there are at least 19,027 plots that have been earmarked for housing over the next 15 years.

They all have planning permission granted, planning permission pending, or are proposed as potential future development sites.

A report highlights where the Government's £570m Get Britain

By Freddie Whittaker and Tom Jennings

Building programme could be spent. It aims to give money to developers or councils to press ahead with schemes which have planning permission, but have stalled because there isn't money available to complete them.

And activists from the Campaign to Protect Rural England have had to

accept the need for homes to be built in the countryside.

Prime Minister and local MP David Cameron recently said homes would need to be built on so-called "greenfield" sites to meet the UK's need.

But CPRE Oxfordshire director Helen Marshall said all other options should be exhausted before Britain's fields are built upon.

She said: "Our view is that we accept there is a need for more new homes in the country, and a few might have to be on greenfield sites, but we think there's an awful lot more that can be done before they start building on our countryside.

"Housebuilders have already got planning permission for thousands of homes, so they should start by doing that, and there's an awful lot which could be done with empty homes, as well as brownfield sites.

"If they look at those things first, they would go a long way to solving the problems."

She added: "Whilst development always comes with the promise of infrastructure, even if it does appear, often it is after the event rather than before.

"We are seeing such a scale of development and the rural roads are not geared up to take that level of increase in traffic.

"We would call for more emphasis on meeting infrastructure requirements within any planning application and

there should be more consideration of what needs to go in first before the rest of the development happens."

While the scale of housing development has raised concerns about roads, schools and hospitals, for others it is a much needed opportunity to house more people in need.

County MP Andrew Smith said the lack of affordable housing in Oxfordshire was a "desperate" situation.

He said: "I write to constituents

every day who are in unsatisfactory or overcrowded accommodation and cannot get the social housing they need.

"The key thing is to get them built and get them built within a scale that can actually meet the local housing need. Once we have got this, we will see if we need more."

Cherwell District Council has a social housing target of 100 each year. It would not say whether it had achieved this.

Local CPRE director Helen Marshall



Oxon MP Andrew Smith



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GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Happy-go-lucky Devizes female, 40, good sense of humour, looking for a reliable, caring man, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136646 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Thoughtful Oxfordshire female, 42, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine man. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427

SPARKS FLYING Fun, curly, blue-eyed Witshire brunette, 45, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093 or send a text to 80360

FOR HAPPINESS Upbeat Swindon female, 45, 5'4", would like to meet a male, to go on dates, share company and hopefully form a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127393 or send a text to 80360

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 46, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135629 or send a text to 80360

SMOOTH OR MOVE Slim, blue-eyed Tworbridge female, 48, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109958 or send a text to 80360

RIGHT HERE WAITING Quiet, rational and sincere Watlington woman, 48, 5'5", would like a date with an aware, intuitive gent, for happiness, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136967 or send a text to 80360

AS SIMPLE AS THAT Slim, blonde, divorced female, 50, likes socialising, cinema, weekend away, seeking a man, 45-50, for friendship first, leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134472

BRING THE SPARKLE BACK Slim, active Chipping Norton female, 63, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys swimming, dog walking, and keeping fit, seeking an honest, caring and trustworthy male, for dates and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135543 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

SEARCHING FOR YOU Down to earth, Mauritus-born Devizes female, 51, looking for someone for a serious relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120023 or send a text to 80360

VA-VA VOOOM Positive, lively and kind-hearted woman, 40, GSOH, would like to meet a vivacious, self-assured male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135586

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

RESTORE MY FAITH Family orientated, honest, trustworthy and caring Oxford mum, 53, looking for a genuine sincere guy, with a good sense of humour, to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116101

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 55, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

SIMPLE TASTES Open, honest Bampton female, 55, enjoys country walks, gardening, swimming, theatre, travelling, would like to meet that special man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136810 or send a text to 80360

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SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 56, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, enjoys rock concerts, educated man, who appreciates food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

RECIPE FOR LOVE Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 57, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132 or send a text to 80360

FIRENDS FIRST Intelligent, attractive Witshire female, 57, widow, brunette, 5'2", likes radio 4, reading, travel, art galleries and gym, new to area and seeking a similar guy, GSOH, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132887 or send a text to 80360

GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME Separated, caring Devizes female, 57, genuine, loving, GSOH, likes reading, cooking, a tall man, for friendship, leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130680

HEADLINE NEWS Sincere, reliable Witshire lady, 57, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable man, for company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Tworbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215

CLOSE TO HAPPINESS Cuddly, young looking 58yr old Salisbury woman, likes travel, reading crime thrillers, all kinds of music, looking for a rugged man to make me smile & share fun times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119145

LIFE STARTS HERE Bubbly, attractive Witney female, 59, slim build, 5'5", sociable, enjoys nights out, conversation, days away and cosy nights in, seeking a funny and intelligent male, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134011

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 60, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Tworbridge lady, 60, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

GENUINE & CARING Oxfordshire widow, 61, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

KNOW WHAT MATTERS Upbeat, cultured, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warmminster female, 62, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

SOCIABLE SORT Tall, blonde Witshire girl, 62, enjoys cars, walks, gardening and more, searching for a sociable man, with an active lifestyle, for a loving and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 452750

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE... Sociable, active Witney woman, 63, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 64yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Witshire lady 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112244 or send a text to 80360

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 65, 5'5", works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146268

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360

ADVENTURE AHEAD Warm, friendly Witney woman, 71, GSOH, youthful, attractive, likes dancing, walking, music, theatre, reading and meals out, seeking a tall, active and fun gentleman, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123234

NICE TO BE WITH Young-minded, retired Chippenham lady, 78, 5'7", cuddly-build, likes crosswords, holidays, home life, seeking a nice gent, to share good company together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128540 or send a text to 80360



FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE Genuine, active Oxford male, 28, slim build, 5'7", caring, enjoys the gym, cycling and generally keeping fit, would like to meet a similar female, honest, GSOH and fun, for friendship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122941

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 32, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837 or send a text to 80360

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 41, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a lovely, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 41, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeking loving, cheeky lady to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035 or send a text to 80360

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Separated, laid-back Bicester guy, 50, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, decent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Friendly, warm hearted Abingdon male, 50, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, matured guy, to enjoy good times together, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 53, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, share the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 52, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

TALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 52, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 53, good sense of humour, into most things, travelling, good foods, looking for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

PERFECT COMPANY Practical, original and loyal Oxford-based man, 54, 5'10", divorced, into sport, history and much more, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

TAKE HANDS Slim, tall Oxfordshire male, 43, N/S, musician and artist, searching for his perfect woman, to make life complete. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108016

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Honest male, 44, 6'3", stocky build, gsoh, enjoys sports, travel, cosy times in, social drinks, seeks fun loving female, for happier times. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

SHARE THE MOMENT Friendly, lovely and sincere Oxford gent, 44, 5'10", wants to meet a lovely, sensible woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134382 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080 or send a text to 80360

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL Friendly Witney male, 48, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115039 or send a text to 80360

UP AND UP Fun-loving Oxford male, 50, likes listening to music, watching movies, walks and nights out, looking for a nice female friend, for good times and maybe romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 875263

UNDER THE SKY Fableing, warm and easygoing Faringdon gent, 50, wants to meet an energetic, tactile female, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136215 or send a text to 80360

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Separated, laid-back Bicester guy, 50, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, decent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

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PERFECT COMPANY Practical, original and loyal Oxford-based man, 54, 5'10", divorced, into sport, history and much more, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young at heart male, 56, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632

NEW DAWN Fit, friendly, handy Oxford male, 56, enjoys pubs, drives and walking in all weathers, searching for an easygoing woman, to share love, laughter and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135784 or send a text to 80360

HOPING FOR MORE Fit, slim-built Watlington male, 57, likes swimming, keeping fit, animals, would like to meet a nice, loving, caring lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134615 or send a text to 80360

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A FRIEND Warm, romantic Bicester male, 65, searching for an interesting, active woman, for days out, friendship, meals and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851123

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CARING NATURE Dependable, informed and responsible Witney man, 58, 6'3", looking for a helpful, decent woman, to share a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

PASSION FLOWER Young-looking, Watlington 59yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Fairly fit Banbury man, 60, 5'11", fair-hair, blue-eyes, works as electrician, looking for a nice lady around the same age, for friendship possibly leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123284

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 61, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460685

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 61, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522

READY TO MOVE ON Young, caring Didcot male, 67, 5'10", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117043 or send a text to 80360

AN IDEAL PARTNER Caring, loyal, romantic, retired Chinnor chap, 64, dog love, keen golfer, eating out and cosy times in, seeking a nice lady, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136451

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 64, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413

IT WOULD BE NICE Very active, non-smoking Swindon male, 65, 5'5", likes walks, dancing, eating in and out, social drinks, weekends away, seeking a similar woman, with similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137021 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A FRIEND Warm, romantic Bicester male, 65, searching for an interesting, active woman, for days out, friendship, meals and good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851123

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 47, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER Swindon lady, 48, looking for straight female friends. Into dancing, cycling, films, yoga, things like me, drinks out, theatre, shopping trips, girly chats the usual sorts of things. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134242 or send a text to 80360

LUCKY CHARM Serious, lovable and imaginative Malmesbury lady, 54, simply searching for an independent, free-thinking girl, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134242 or send a text to 80360

KING OF MY HEART Lively, confident Oxford male, 54, would like to meet a mature, active male, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135675 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 64, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 65, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360

BRING THE SPARKLE BACK Clean-shaven Aylesbury male, 67, 6', medium-build, own bungalow, would like to meet a sociable man, who wishes to enjoy good times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119935

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 69, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 455567

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Fit, clean-shaven Fife, active, enjoys gardening, golf, diy and the outdoors, seeking a similar lady, affectionate and fun, for friendship and hopefully love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126173

LET'S PRESERVE THE GOOD THINGS Well-shaved male, 67, 5'10", adequate intelligence, passively handsome, active, inquisitive, liberal outlook, wtlm bright, youthful lady for loving relationship and interesting times. Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108871

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Friendly, faithful Didcot male, 67, 5'9", likes rugby, football, DIY, gardening and much more, searching for a loving woman, to make life complete. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285

SOUL TO SOUL Divorced, active Oxfordshire male, 77, 5'5", local younger, N/S, enjoys pubs, meals, boat sales, crosswords and cosy times, seeking a charming lady, to share quality times and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937



■ Team captain Rosie helps kick off product-testing sponsorship

Girls' soccer team gets some lingerie support

WHEN 13-year-old Rosie Gowing sent out letters asking businesses to sponsor her football team, she was offered more support than expected.

Banbury-based Royce Lingerie replied agreeing to sponsor the Bloxham under-13s girls' football team, providing new kit – and including new sports bras.

Team coach and manager Tony Gowing said parents and youngsters were delighted with the sponsorship, which also involves the young women giving feedback to the company about their bras.

Banbury mum-of-three Kay Gowing, 39, said: "It is absolutely brilliant. My daughter, Rosie, wrote to different companies and Royce was the only one to reply.

"They have got a new kit and it is helping them out." Daughter Rosie, who is the captain of the team and plays in midfield, said: "It is good because we get to try their new products. It helps them too – by enticing

By Emma Harrison

more young people do sport and be comfortable doing it."

Banbury mum-of-two Jenny Parker, 41, whose daughter, Emily, plays for the team, said: "I think it is excellent.

"They have been very professional. I went with them to be measured up. It is great for a young girl.

"She was fine with it and she has some lovely underwear to wear for the sport they are designed for."

Emily, 13, who plays centre forward, said: "I think it is really good because I can wear my sports bras in school when I have PE."

Jennier Steenkamp, commercial manager, said: "At Royce, we aim to educate all women about the importance of wearing a comfortable, supportive and well-fitting bra.

"This message is never more important than when a girl's body is developing and changing. Our sponsorship of Bloxham



Girls' football team is just one step towards creating awareness of the importance of non-wired bras for girls of all ages, from the moment they start to develop."

She added: "We'd like to wish them all the best for the current football season."

The team's first game this year was on Saturday of last

week when they lost 2-1 to the Kidlington U13s girls' team in the Oxford Mail Girls Football League.

To find out more about playing in one of Bloxham's football teams call Tony Gowing on 07834 037619.

The Bloxham U13s girls who are being sponsored by Royce Lingerie

InBRIEF

Drink-drive case delayed

■ THE case of a man charged with recording the highest drink-drive reading in Thames Valley during this year's festive police clampdown has been adjourned. Banbury Magistrates put back the case of Marcin Leja, of Rye Close, Banbury, to Monday, February 11. The 33-year-old was arrested on December 12 at 11.30pm, accused of having 168mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mg. This is the highest recorded by Thames Valley Police of its 278 December drink-drive arrests, of which 74 were in Oxfordshire.

Objection

■ AN official objection to plans for 35 homes in Hampton Drive has been submitted by King's Sutton Parish Council. It said the Barwood Homes plan would "significantly diminish King's Sutton's rural character", add to traffic congestion, put pressure on schools and did not set out enough detail on flood protection. The developer has said the plan would "make an important contribution towards satisfying the severe and immediate housing needs of the area". South Northamptonshire Council will make a final decision.

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Tadmorton Road
Bloxham

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Have your say on our proposed development at Tadmorton Road

Miller Homes warmly invites you to a public exhibition where we will be introducing our initial proposals for development of up to 60 homes and community parkland at Tadmorton Road, Bloxham.

We greatly value the input of local residents and take our commitment to meaningful consultation extremely seriously. We appreciate local views over recent planning applications; however, we believe that our site offers a more suitable and sustainable location for delivering housing growth whilst also providing material benefits for the local community.



The exhibition will ensure that the local community has the opportunity to view the initial proposals for Tadmorton Road and provide feedback that will influence the final scheme. Members of the design team will be on hand to receive feedback and answer any questions. We hope you can come along and look forward to meeting you. Further information can be found online at www.millerhomesbloxham.co.uk

When?

Fri 1st February. 3pm – 9pm
Sat 2nd February. 10am – 3pm

Where?

Jubilee Park Hall,
Barley Close, Bloxham

Contact?

Miss Pavitar Mann
T: 0207 399 2288

E: pavitarm@curtinandco.com

If you are unable to attend the exhibition, but would like to receive copies of the exhibition boards and feedback form, please get in touch using the details above.

MP tells of dementia fear

RELATIVES find it "almost impossible" to find care home places for those without dementia, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry has said.

The Conservative spoke during a Commons debate on the condition. He said that 30 years ago, nursing homes were "mostly full of spry widows in their 70s".

He said: "But it is now impossible to get into a nursing

home or residential care home in my constituency unless one is suffering from severe Alzheimer's or dementia.

"As a consequence, many more people with mild dementia are now living at home in the community, being looked after by carers."

More care assistants are needed in hospitals, nursing homes and to support people to live at home, he told the debate.

But he warned some GPs appear unwilling to diagnose dementia because they do not know what services to offer sufferers.

He said: "I have little fear of death — death at worst can be eternal darkness — but I have a total fear of getting dementia."

And he referred to the "tragic" case of Cynon Valley MP Ann Clwyd, who last month said her late husband suffered "indifference and contempt" from nurses.

Sir Tony said: "We must get compassion back into the NHS."



Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry speaking in the House of Commons



St Mary's Primary School headteacher Kathryn Crawford

Ofsted monitors review visit

INSPECTORS have been back to the first Oxfordshire school to receive the new "requires improvement" Ofsted judgement.

St Mary's Primary School, in Southam Road, Banbury, was judged to "require improvement" following an inspection in October, triggering regular monitoring visits.

The controversial new judgement replaces "satisfactory", and is less serious than schools judged "inadequate", which are either told they have serious weaknesses or are placed in special measures.

In October, the school was told pupils did not make consistently good progress and teaching was not good enough.

Writing, maths and marking were also highlighted as areas for improvement.

But headteacher Kathryn Crawford and other senior leaders were told they had brought stability and drive to the school after a period of uncertainty, due to

By Fran Bardsley

changes in leadership.

At the monitoring inspection in December, results of which have just been published, inspector Ian Hodgkinson said: "School records indicate that the quality of teaching continues to improve following a determined effort to eradicate inadequate practice."

"A new system of staff appraisal has been introduced to ensure that all are focused on the key school improvement priorities of raising standards in English and mathematics through better teaching."

He said action plans had been drawn up that identified "useful initiatives" on how to address the issues raised – but said they were not always clear about timescales for bringing them in or how long they would take.

Mr Hodgkinson said: "Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the

areas requiring improvement identified."

The school was told it needed to sharpen its targets and success criteria within the school action plan, and make sure there were specific opportunities for the school to be evaluated against how well it was doing.

He also told the school that leadership needed to be distributed more widely across the staff, to develop the capacity to improve across the school.

The school will continue to be monitored until its next full inspection, which is likely to be within two years of the original judgement.

The new rating has attracted controversy as some headteachers and union leaders believe the new terminology is unnecessarily negative.

But Oxfordshire County Council's education chief, Melinda Tilley, has supported the new framework to jolt schools not performing as well as they could out of "complacency".

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Busiest season ever for the mercy crews

THE ambulance service that serves Oxfordshire saw their busiest weekend on record over the festive period.

Every year over-indulgence and cold weather sickness combine to put huge pressure on the emergency services in winter.

The year's heaviest volume of calls traditionally occur at the end of the working week before Christmas, and the number of calls taken by South Central Ambulance Service can increase by more than 300 on a single night.

From December 24 to December

By Mark Taylor

26, the service – which covers Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire – took 4,076 calls. That is an increase of 7.1 per cent on the record-breaking 2011 total of 3,807.

The New Year period also saw a rise on last year, with SCAS taking 3,063 calls on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, compared to 2,895 in 2011.

The service normally deals with an average of 1,189 calls on

Saturdays the rest of the year.

SCAS said many things had contributed to the leap in calls, including increased alcohol consumption during the Christmas party season, bad winter weather, car accidents on icy roads, and respiratory and viral illnesses.

Ambulance service staff, both past and present, said that dealing with cases of over-indulgence often took them away from genuine emergencies.

Paramedic Matthew Bipp said: "When someone is drunk, you've no idea how long you will be with them."

Former ambulance driver Tony Ledger, 70, retired in September with 38 years' experience under his belt.

He said the Christmas period was jolting and often disturbing for paramedics. He said: "If people saw what we saw at Christmas, they would never drink again. Over-indulgence is something else. People just go mad."

"From when the shift starts to when it ends, it's just craziness. You never really know what you are going to get. You may think it would be the kids, but it's usually the office parties."

"And that can take you away from a real emergency."

There is also the cost of dealing with such incidents.

Ambulance spokesman James Keating-Wilkes said: "Like all public sector organisations, SCAS is under pressure to save money whilst at the same time continue to provide the best possible mobile healthcare to those who most need it."

"With each incident we attend costing an average of £247, SCAS would appeal to people to access the service responsibly. That would help ensure that resources remain available to respond to genuine medical emergencies."



A busy ambulance crew speed to another emergency



Paramedics Katrina Jones, Matt Bipp, Lou Gale, Tom Humphries, Jamie Saczak and Laura Eslinger

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InBRIEF

Sir Tony joins in debate

■ **POOR broadband access, apprenticeships and calls for a minimum price on alcohol were among issues discussed between business leaders and Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry. The Conservative attended a breakfast question-and-answer session, organised by the Oxfordshire branch of the Federation of Small Businesses. Branch chairman Margaret Coles: "We were grateful to Sir Tony for giving up his valuable time."**

Air blood box

■ **THE Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance now carries blood on board, thanks to the invention of a specialised blood "cool box" allows the air ambulance to carry and store two units of blood for 72 hours.**

Patients reveal 'good' experiences at GP surgeries

SATISFACTION with GP surgeries in Oxfordshire is above the national average, a Government survey has found. The Department of Health's GP Patient Survey showed 96 per cent of those questioned had either a "good" or "very good" experience with their surgery.

Of the 11,712 people surveyed in Oxfordshire, 5,883 said they had a "very good" experience and 4,668 people said

they had a "good" experience. The survey, which ran between January and September, found the national average was 82 per cent.

It also found 70 per cent (8,104 of 11,589) of Oxfordshire respondents had confidence and trust in their GP, compared to 65 per cent nationally.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group chief clinical officer Stephen

Richards, said: "The patient survey is a well-respected indicator of how GP surgeries are performing. I am delighted to see that Oxfordshire is rated so highly across the board.

"It also helps us to see how our patients' expectations of the service we provide are changing and what areas would benefit from improvement.

"Questions around opening times

show that 74 per cent of patients would like to access Saturday appointments, for example, and also that whilst currently only four per cent of people book appointments online, 36 per cent would prefer to do so using the Internet."

The group hopes to take these ideas forward with the NHS Commissioning Board, which is responsible for commissioning GP services.

Crime-busting success

■ Now award-winning anti-fuel theft campaign could expand into other parts of the district

By Sam McGregor



The launch of the Cherwell Forecourt Watch scheme with, from left, Supt Neville Clayton, June Lynes and Andy Huckfield, of Antelope Garage

AN award-winning scheme aimed at tackling petrol thefts in the Cherwell area could be rolled out to other districts.

The Vehicle Identity Protection Scheme was introduced in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington last April after the number of car registration plate thefts and fuel forecourt thefts shot up by 246 per cent.

In its first six months, police have seen dramatic reductions.

Between April and June 2012 there was a 67.4 per cent drop in number plate thefts and a 44.3 per cent fall in the number of people filling up their cars with fuel and driving off without paying.

The initiative Forecourt Watch was set up to tackle the problem head-on.

It saw dozens of garages across Cherwell sign up to the scheme, in which details of stolen number plates – captured on CCTV – were passed to them as soon as they were reported.

There was also a radio system linking them to each other and the police.

Garages in the initiative also fitted anti-theft number plate screws, as part of an MoT, and the special screws were available free from police stations in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

Supt Andy Boyd, who set up the scheme, said: "There had been an increasing number of thefts of car number plates, and a rise in petrol thefts from forecourts.

"The two crimes are linked. Stolen registration plates are used by thieves who drive away from petrol stations without paying for fuel.

"They are also used by criminals who commit serious crimes that require getaway cars. Number plate thieves can also avoid speeding fines, parking tickets and congestion charges.

"The innocent owners of the plates are usually the first to be questioned by police investigating the crimes – and receive letters demanding payment of speeding

and parking fines."

Figures show that between April and June last year, there were 14 number plate thefts, compared with 43 in 2011.

And between July and September 2012, number plate thefts fell from 27 in 2011 to 14 last year.

Fuel thefts have also reduced – from 86 between April and June 2010, to 47 in the same period during 2012, and from July to September last year, there were 56 cases compared to 61 in the same period in 2011. Co-ordinator of the Cherwell Crime Partnership, June Lynes, said: "We have been approached by other local police areas as they have been impressed with the results.

"I have already had interest from Reading and Milton Keynes, who have been interested in how we have done it."

The scheme was funded by a £10,896 grant from the Government's Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund, awarded to the Cherwell Crime Partnership.

The initiative won a partnership innovation award from the Association of Business Crime Partnerships' Partnership Excellence Awards 2012.

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Comedian is hooked on live laughter

Last time Jo Caulfield came to Oxfordshire she did a gig at The Theatre in Chipping Norton, which she described as full of Range Rovers and wellies.

"I couldn't believe how posh it was, like a village for rich people who want to live in the country," she said. However, she is looking forward to returning to The Theatre on February 1 as well as dropping in to Milton Keynes this Sunday.

The 49-year-old comedian, who sometimes gets lost hiding behind Graham Norton's skirts, still loves to go it alone on stage and has been wowing crowds with her new tour *Better The Devil You Know*, inspired by the recent bombshell that her marriage in New York five years ago was invalid because it had never been registered over here.

"At a recent gig I was talking to a woman who'd done the same thing. 'She said 'Wasn't it easy? Pay \$50, get your licence, three minutes later you're done. The hardest part is when you get back to Britain and you have to fill in all the paperwork and register it here'. I felt my blood go cold – I didn't know we had to do that! Then it hit me like a punch in the stomach – I'm not actually married to my husband!' The

realisation that she is, in fact, a single woman, got Jo thinking, "If you could make your big life choices again, would you do the same?"

The reality is of course that Jo is happy as a married/unmarried woman and having been a Londoner since she was 17 recently moved to Edinburgh with her husband/partner and is loving it. "It's amazing how friendly everyone is and how everybody seems to know everybody. They don't ignore you and barge past you which took me a while to get used to. I kept wanting to say "you don't know me!" The only down side is that going to work is rather impractical."

But then Jo is used to being on the road, having been in comedy for the past 30 years.

"I always got a thrill from making people laugh, more than normal so when I found out I could do open mic nights it was amazing. I hadn't realised there was an easy way in."

It's still a dog-eat-dog world out there though. "It hurts when you have a bad gig but the desire to do it is bigger – you get hooked on the laughter," she explains. So even when her first open mic spot followed a bloke whose routine died on stage, she went for it

anyway, and found her *raison d'être*. A chap called Graham Norton started out on the comedy circuit at the same time and they became firm friends. Jo said she knew he had something even then, and when his set pieces didn't go well, he could always turn an audience. So when Graham asked Jo to come and write gags for his new TV show she jumped at the chance. So why doesn't she mind that he gets all the glory for her jokes? "Because he's really good at what he does and I couldn't do it. If he was rubbish I might be a bit resentful, but Graham deserves his success, he works very hard for it."

It also enables Jo to tour as and how she wants. All well and good, but the big question remains. Is she going to stay married? "Well I've been thinking maybe distance makes the heart grow fonder, because I'm never there at weekends. He doesn't complain...."

■ Jo Caulfield's *Better The Devil You Know* comes to The Stables Theatre, Milton Keynes, (01908 280800) on Sunday and Chipping Norton's The Theatre (01608 642350) next Friday (February 1) as well as Banbury's Mill (01295 279002) on April 28.

HEY JO: Jo Caulfield



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Events to keep you moving

■ Get ready to rock with The Stand-in Stones and Freewheelin' at Banbury's Mill Theatre tomorrow (Friday). The Spiceball Park venue plays host to two local bands, The Stand-in Stones, right, and Freewheelin'. These two Banbury groups will play their favourite music as an entertaining demonstration of appreciation for their most admired rock stars. The Stand-in Stones bring the sound and excitement of a live Stones gig to the stage, playing most of the major hits from their peak in the '60s charts to more modern numbers. The performers plan to get the crowd dancing and singing along to tracks such as *Brown Sugar*, *Route 66*, *Honky Tonk Woman* and more. Freewheelin' will play the music of the '70s band Free. Musicians Nick Bullard on drums, Clive Jarvis on bass, Martin Green on guitar and James Humphries on vocals, do not claim to be a tribute band, aiming to share the music of Paul Rogers, Paul Kossof, Andy Fraser and Simon Kirke. The gig starts at



8.30pm and tickets are £12 or £10 if bought in advance. Box office: 01295 279002.

■ A magical mix of ballet and creativity arrives at Northampton's Royal & Derngate this Saturday. Moscow City Ballet, currently performing *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*, have inspired a *Nutcracker*-

themed Move, Make & Do activity session for under-fives, and a ballet class for five to eight-year-olds, together with a ticket offer for the 2.30pm performance of *The Nutcracker*. Tickets cost £6 per child, with up to two accompanying adults free. Call 01604 624811 or visit royalandderngate.co.uk

■ And finally, budding actors are urged to attend open auditions for Banbury Cross Players' May production of Anthony Shaffer's *Whodunnit* this evening (Thursday), at 8pm at The Mill Arts Centre. Call director Andy Crump on 01280 703564 or visit banburycrossplayers.co.uk for more details.

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Daniel has been in the industry for over 16 years and when he opened DJK Tyres three years ago he was keen to offer local people a service they can trust with a reason to choose DJK every time they need maintenance on their car. They are open until 6pm Mon – Sat and always try to fit you in. The team make servicing quick and painless whilst keeping

prices as low as they can. With the cold weather upon us, it's never too late to make sure your tyres and car are performing at their best, so make sure you visit the friendly team at DJK.

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Disney classic loses none of its charm in 3D update

MONSTERS, INC. 3D (U, 95 mins)
Animation/Comedy/Action.
Featuring the voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman, James Coburn, Jennifer Tilly, Bonnie Hunt, Steve Buscemi, John Ratzenberger.
Director: Pete Docter, Lee Unkrich, David Silverman.

Since the release of *Toy Story 3*, the Oscar-winning computer animation wizards at Disney Pixar have embraced the technological and creative might of 3D with gusto.

Re-issues of *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2* whetted our appetite for more digitally-enhanced treats from the studio's back catalogue.

A revamp of *Finding Nemo* was released across the Atlantic last year but hasn't swum to these shores yet.

Thankfully, with *Monsters University* set for release in the summer, Pete Docter's glorious 2002 fantasy, which taps into universal fears of creatures under the bed, enjoys another joyous moment in the spotlight.

Monsters, Inc. has lost none of its pot of charm in the eye-popping format.

The climatic chase through rows of children's doors is especially thrilling with the added depth of vision.

James P Sullivan, aka Sulley (voiced by John Goodman), and best friend Mike Wazowski (Billy Crystal) are top of their game in the child-scaring business.

Working out of *Monsters Inc.* ("We Scare Because We Care"), the largest scream-processing factory in Monstropolis, the fun-loving double-act scare countless

unsuspecting moppets by leaping out of wardrobes.

Monstropolis is powered by human screams, so it is imperative that Sulley and his colleagues meet their daily targets.

Alas, 21st century children are increasingly difficult to spook – must be the overexposure to violent television programmes and video games – so the city is in the grip of a fuel crisis.

Henry J Waternoose (James Coburn), big boss at *Monsters, Inc.*, is acutely aware that the fate of thousands rests in the paws, tentacles and claws of his loyal employees.

Humans are forbidden in the monster world – they are considered a health risk – so when Sulley accidentally brings a human girl Boo into Monstropolis, all hell breaks loose.

Monsters, Inc. is pure, unabashed feel-good family entertainment, boasting dazzling visuals, lovable characters and a script crammed to bursting with gags.

Goodman and Crystal are on top form, lending their distinctive vocals to their unforgettable partners in crime.

The screenplay provides them with plenty of big laughs, but the ad-libs are equally hilarious.

Stay for the hilarious end-of-credits out-takes, complete with fluffed lines, misplaced props and collapsing scenery.

Steve Buscemi is delightfully loathsome as the villain of the piece, and Jennifer Tilly provides ample light relief as Mike's medusa-like love interest.

The level of detail on the main



Disney's *Monsters Inc* makes a return in stunning 3D format

characters, such as the realistic movement of Sulley's fur, still dazzles 11 years after the film's original release.

There are sly in-jokes aplenty for eagle-eyed fans – one of the restaurants is called Harryhausen's, named after the pioneering stop-motion animator.

Ralph Eggleston's Oscar-winning short *For The Birds*, which precedes the main feature, has also been lovingly converted into 3D.

His simple idea – birds of a feather bully together – is brilliantly executed.

CakeWhat's on

FRIDAY

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Stand In Stones and Freewheelin'. A double tribute act from two locally-based bands. Featuring the music of 70s band Free and, in celebration of their 50th anniversary, The Rolling Stones. 8.30pm. £10 adv. 01295 279002.

Sun Inn, High Street, Hook Norton: Cody- singer and guitarist covering 60s and 70s. Free. 9pm. 01608 737570.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Roxy Magic. Roxy Music tribute band featuring Bryan Ferry look and sound-alike, Kevin Hackett. £15, conc £13. 7.45pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

The White Horse, 2 The Square, Kings Sutton Banbury: Laurence. Expect to hear Soul, Motown, Disco, Reggae, Pop and even maybe a dance track or two! 8.30pm. Free admission. 01295 810843.

SUNDAY

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Carthy, Hardy, Farrell and Young. Folk violinists and singers performing together. Eliza Carthy joins forces with Bella Hardy, Kate Young and Lucy Farrell – an all-female folk supergroup. £15, concession £13. 7.45pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

TUESDAY
The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Philip Pickett and Carlos Nunez. Galician folk legend Carlos Nunez and two of his musicians join Cotswolds-based early music star Philip Pickett and the Musicians of the Globe in a foot-stomping celebration of early Celtic ballads and dance tunes. £15, conc £13. 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Jan 25, The Stand In Stones

Box office: 01295 279002

Events

FRIDAY

Burns night: Loyd Lindsay Rooms, High Street, Ardington. A dinner, dance and auction evening, in aid of Sobell House Hospice. Three-course supper, pipe and ceilidh band. From 7pm. £25. Tickets Loyd Lindsay Rooms, The Grocer Chef Limited, Ardington, or please call. 01235 832240.

SATURDAY

Jumble sale: Primary School, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower. £1 admission. Refreshments available. Toys, Bric-a-brac, dvds, clothes, books, cds and records. 10-12pm. 01295 780270.

Three Hundred Years Under Our Feet: The Gallery, The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton. Josh John's documentation of the aftermath of the demise of the British coal mining industry. Sat 11am-3pm. 01608 642350.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You and a close one don't seem to be able to conduct a conversation without falling out recently. A third party who wants to help you both out this week could be your nod, so don't bite their hand off when they offer. Younger faces do you a favour which shows you how much they've grown up with your help in this last year. Ring now so we can look into what your future holds.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

It may be hard for you to keep your mind on your work this week as matters of a personal nature are uppermost in your mind. Try to give yourself time to think rather than just ploughing ahead to the beat of others. It is only a rested mind which will give you the answers you are in need of my friend. Give me a call now to hear which sign is taking advantage of your good nature this month.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Loose tongues in business could damage both your reputation and your finances. Try to stay professional throughout this week. You'll be glad when you see who this loose tongued mood has affected and believe me Taurus, how the mighty will fall. New hobbies or ways to relax make you a much happier sign with options for a far wider social life. Ring now to reveal all.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Too many people want to know what's going on in your life and it's making it hard for you not to tell a few lies, isn't it Scorpio? Some sort of an event draws near which is giving added pressure to your life. Go to the source so we can all sleep easier. Good times await and closure can and will be yours before this month is over. Ring now to hear how you're protected by the stars.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

News you have in your possession must be kept under wraps until the person concerned gives you the nod. If not Gemini, you could end up ruining what you've both planned. News of someone young gives you reason to celebrate and should leave you with more time for fun and less time to worry. Dress well on Friday. You won't believe who you'll see. Ring so I can show you the future.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Yes, you're busy but you still need to give someone an answer which they've been waiting a long time for already. Your home life is not as settled as it has been or should be and there is a lot you can do about this on Thursday when Mercury hands you the gift of clear vision and important decisions can be made about your future. Ring now to hear why Leos are important now.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

People who didn't know your name last year now want to work with you and help you to improve your future. Just beware of jealous so called friends giving you bad advice at the weekend. You know who you are and you know your own mind, so try not to be influenced by them. Feelings grow for someone. Take it slow, this time. Ring now to hear a financial prediction.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You can't expect to get on with everyone all the time, but you're allowing a close ones friends or family to affect your mood has got to be taken control of. They don't even know the real you and they are drawing you into unnecessary arguments. Don't take the bait, especially on Friday. Prove you can be the bigger person. Phone me to hear how love and travel mix well now.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

The temptation to spend is strong but if you can try to save even half of what you normally spend then you should find it possible to act on impulse on Thursday and Friday. Flexibility is paramount to the stars showing you a good time. Rumours of a new face are unlikely to be true. Make up your own mind. Give me a call now to hear why you can embrace all contacts which are foregone.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You're talking for the sake of it and we both know that talking has got you into a whole lot of trouble in the past hasn't it? A stand off of some sort with someone you've already had past dealings with can only be stopped by you admitting where you failed. New beginnings link to a move talked about on Sunday. Give me a call now for a message from Mars to better your future.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

If you want to learn something new or reclaim what you used to know then this is a great week to make enquiries or even commitments. News of a major change in a family member's life gives you reason to look at your own state of affairs and by Friday we could see many of you Virgos making their own life changing announcements. Ring now for a long term view of your life.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Work takes priority in your stars this week, or rather what kind of work you do. For many of you Pisces will be looking into new areas of your work to keep up your passion for your job. News of a new partnership shocks but also pleases midweek. Money can be made via contracts you receive around this time. Phone me now for this very opportunistic time.

0906 585 4371

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Glock parts company with Marussia F1 team

BANBURY'S Marussia F1 Team announced on Monday that driver Timo Glock was leaving the team.

The 30-year-old German has been with the team since its inception in 2009, completing three full seasons.

John Booth, team principal of the Marussia F1 Team, said: "Timo has made a significant contribution to our team over the past three seasons, helping us to develop our package to the point where, for a large proportion of the 2012 season, we were holding tenth place in the Constructors' Championship.

"Timo is a fantastic driver and he has been a popular member of the team.

"Our team was founded on the principle of benefiting from proven experience whilst also providing

opportunities for young emerging talent to progress to the pinnacle of motorsport.

"Thus far, this philosophy has also been reflected in our commercial model. The ongoing challenges facing the industry mean that we have had to take steps to secure our long-term future.

"Tough economic conditions prevail and the commercial landscape is difficult for everyone, Formula 1 teams included. We would like to thank Timo for working with us to reach this decision, especially as he had a valid contract, and also for the contribution he has made to our team.

"We wish him all the best for his future and I would like to congratulate the next team acquiring the services of such a competitive, professional and

experienced racer.

"We will provide an update regarding the completion of our driver line-up in due course."

Glock added: "I have had three excellent years with the Marussia F1 Team, during which I had the chance to actively participate in building and developing the team in its endeavours to succeed within the Formula 1 World Championship.

"I would like to wish the team good luck in navigating this next period and thank everyone for the great times we shared and the support I have received.

"Although it is not the path I expected to be taking, I am in fact excited about what the future holds in terms of my own career and I hope to comment on that very soon."



Timo Glock

Nikara set for second drive

BANBURY'S Prodrive WRC Team will run Jarkko Nikara at Rally Sweden in February.

This will be the young Finnish driver's second outing with the Mini World Rally car, following his debut at Rally Spain in November where he finished fifth, despite it being only his first competitive outing in a World Rally Car.

Prodrive's business development director, Richard Taylor, said:

"Nikara's mature performance on the Tarmac in Spain was even more extraordinary given it wasn't his favourite surface and that he only had 50km of testing in the Mini prior to the event.

"He clearly has a great deal of talent and if he can continue from where he left off in Spain, I am sure he can produce another great result."

In Sweden, Nikara will run alongside the Motorsport Italia Mini of Michal Kosciuszko.

It was previously announced that the Mentos team would start their WRC 2 campaign in Sweden in the Mini S2000. They will now start their campaign in Portugal.

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Number 2, Victoria Cottages, Bodicote, has been extended and modernised but includes period features such as wooden shutters on some windows, a fireplace, high ceilings and dado and picture rails.

The property, which is on the market for £330,000, includes a sitting room, family room, kitchen/dining room plus three double bedrooms and family bathroom.

Other highlights include a gravel driveway with parking at the front, good-sized south-west

By Gill Oliver

facing back garden and shed.

Another period property with unusual features is The Studio House in Woodstock.

The 16th-century cottage, priced at £499,950, includes a spiral staircase, leaded-light windows and window seat.

Just off the town's market square, the Grade-II listed property comes with a pretty courtyard garden.

An open-plan kitchen/breakfast/sitting room includes a window seat and fireplace plus there is a second reception

room/bedroom three with fireplace and doors to the garden.

The vaulted master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom and dressing room and there is a second bedroom and shower room.

The property, which is in a conservation area, is hidden from view by other properties and accessed via a private passageway.

Victoria Cottages, Bodicote, is being marketed by agent Mark David. Call them on 01869 338898 or click on mark-david.co.uk

The Studio House, Woodstock, is with Savills. Call 01865 339700 or see their website, savills.com



Victoria Cottages, Bodicote, on the market with Mark David, is priced at £330,000

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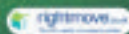
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Peugeot lights up hatchback sector

By David Duffy

LIGHTING is, without doubt, the new jewellery for modern cars and the Peugeot 208 positively drips with it.

At night, the front has a stripe of LED lighting wrapped round the headlights and the rear wears distinctive 'claws' of LED lighting. Inside, the test model glowed with a white LED interior light and gleaming blue strips, surrounding both the instrumentation and, most dramatically, the huge panoramic sunroof.

The good news is that all this attractive, but frivolous, bling is backed up by solid, sensible, practical qualities, essential for a car competing in one of the largest and most hotly-contested areas of the car market. Competing against the likes of the Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall Corsa, Volkswagen Polo and Mini, the 208's appearance is streamlined, agile, dynamic and distinctive.

Peugeot is a company with a serious small-car heritage and the 208, which is available in two distinct body styles, three- and five-door, follows a series of superbly successful cars, including the 205, 206 and 207.

The profile of the three-door is more sculptured and hollowed out than the five-door, with a quarter panel reminiscent of the iconic 1980s 205.

The THP 156 'warm' hatch, with sharp handling and a willing engine, also rekindles much of the sporting DNA of previous models in a much more refined package.

Compared to its predecessor, the car is lighter and slightly smaller, but paradoxically, it has more space inside, both for passengers and for cargo. The car's wheelbase is identical to that of its predecessor, but the adoption of more compact front seat backs helps to give significantly more space in the rear for passengers, as well as a larger boot. Other neat touches, such as dual-zone air conditioning, also help to improve passenger comfort.

The driving experience is taut and refined, and the test car has a front subframe that is reinforced to cope with the performance potential of the 156 horsepower engine.

With prices starting at about £10,000, all 208s feature an elec-



TAUT HANDLING: The 208 range, which starts at about £10,000, is fun to drive

tronic stability programme, that includes hill assist with intelligent traction control, which improves the vehicle's ability to move off and be driven on slippery road surfaces. Ninety-five per cent of the range also comes equipped with both cruise control and a speed limiter.

The classy interior is dominated by an elevated instrument display, a noticeably smaller steering wheel and a seven-inch colour touch screen, mounted at the top of the central console, that controls the operation of the radio, Bluetooth hands-free kit, or playing of music files via a USB connection.

Auto facts

Model: Peugeot 208 Feline 1.6 THP 156
Price: £16,895
Insurance group: 24 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 48.7mpg
Top speed: 134mph
Length: 396.2cm/156in
Width: 146cm/57.5in
Luggage capacity: 10 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11 gallons/50 litres
CO2 emissions: 135g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Usedcarscene

British car buyers 'simply hate haggling'

ALMOST a fifth of Britons hate to haggle but say that where buying a car is concerned the difficult economic climate is forcing them to do so, according to new research.

The study, completed by online car research and buying portal Recombu Cars, has found that a further third (33 per cent) of British car buyers say haggling does not come naturally to them.

Of the 2,000 respondents, 29 per cent said intimidating sales staff influenced them negatively, while 18 per cent were put off by a lack of knowledge about what they were buying.

Among the most common

symptoms of haggle anguish were racing hearts and blushing at 19 per cent each, stuttering at 13 per cent and then a dry mouth and sweaty palms, both with 12 per cent. However, 21 per cent of the same sample said that information gained online – including prices – helped them to haggle in person, with 13 per cent going further and preferring to simply buy online and cut out the haggling process altogether.

Rory Reid, editor of Recombu Cars, said: "In the current economic climate everyone is trying to look after the pennies and even though we might not like doing it, Brits are being forced to haggle for the best deal."

"Access to information online has certainly made the buying process easier and it helps shoppers get away from pushy salesmen who will do anything to get their hands on your money."

Meanwhile, Fiat has announced UK prices for its Panda 4x4 and Panda Trekking, two versions of its good value supermini that offer a little extra off-road ability. This latest Panda offering starts at £13,950 for the TwinAir 85 horsepower 4x4, rising to £14,950 for the 1.3-litre 16v Multijet 4x4 diesel version. The two-wheel-drive Trekking starts at £12,450 on the road for the TwinAir version and £13,450 for the Multijet.

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2005 55	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport, Metallic Blue, 3 door, Local car, Excellent condition, Aircon, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Remote central locking, Radio/CD, Etc, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear.....	£3,395
2003 03	FIAT PUNTO 1.9 DIESEL, Metallic Red, 5 Door, PAS, Central locking, Electric windows, Radio/CD, Good service record, Approximately 55000 recorded miles, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear.....	£2,450
2002 52	RENAULT CLIO 1.4 PRIVILEGE, 3 Door, Metallic Red, Previously Supplied By Our Selfs, Approx Only 74,000 Miles, PAS, Aircon, Electric Windows, Central Locking, Etc, Sold With a new MOT & A Full Service, HPI Clear.....	£2,195
2001 51	VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Air con, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear.....	Arriving soon
2002 52	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LS, Silver, 5 Door, Air conditioning, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Local car, Sold with a new MOT, a service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear.....	£1,895
2002 52	CITROEN SAXO 1.1 FORTE, Silver, 3 door, 2 Owners from new, Full service history, Radio taxed till may 2013, ideal first car, Low insurance, HPI Clear, Viewing by appointment only.....	£1,695
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078986 14502

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01985 851002

£850

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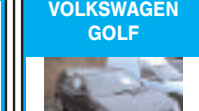
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1000cc to 1295cc from	£129.90	£64.95	£159.95	£72.95	£196.45	£133.70
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